Czech National Day Concert

Boris Krajny, piano

Thursday, October 27, 2005
at 8:00 pm

Arts Building
University of Alberta

Program

DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC

Program

Siciliano (from *Flute sonata*) Johann S Bach - Ferruccio Busoni
Jesu, joy of man's desire

Sonata in B Minor Franz Liszt
(Lento assai - Allegro eneregico - Andante Sostenuto
- Allegro energico - Andante sostenuto - Lento assai)

Intermission

Partita No. 4 (Tempo di fox ala Hawai) Erwin Schulhoff
Partita No. 8 (Shimmy - jazz) (1894-1942)

Memories, Op. 6 Vitězslav Novak
Triste
Inquieto
Amoroso

Idylles, Op. 7 Josef Suk
No. 1
No. 2
No 3 - Love song

Ballade No. 1 G Minor, Op. 23 Frederic Chopin

In the presence of the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic
Mr Jerry Jelinek.

Co-sponsored by the Czech and Slovak Society of Arts and Sciences of Alberta and the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies

PROGRAM NOTES FOR BORIS KRAJNY RECITAL
THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2005

Although he was born and lived in Prague, **ERVIN SCHULHOFF (1894–1942)** came from a German Jewish family. This ultimately cost him his life as he perished in the Holocaust. He studied music in Prague and Leipzig as well as in Vienna and Berlin. For a brief time he was also a pupil of Debussy and Reger. He was renowned primarily as a concert and jazz pianist. Between 1922 and 1933 he tried to integrate jazz into serious music, like George Gershwin in North America. His set of Jazz Etudes, from which the two excerpts being heard tonight come, was composed in the year 1926.

VITEZSLAV NOVAK (1870–1949) studied composition with Antonin Dvorak and, in contrast to his contemporary Josef Suk, was a very prolific composer. His music has great beauty and imagination, warmth and genuine individuality. It is always noble, moving, and powerful, with impressive command of both melody and structure. His musical language, similar to Suk's, is very different from other contemporaries like Janacek or Schulhoff, but recognizably from the same part of the world and equally fresh.

The *Memories* is a youthful work, written by the 24 year-old Novak. Although the composer did not leave us any insight as to the inspirational force behind this particular work, the music itself makes it obvious: Broken Heart (Triste), Restless (Inquieto) and Love (Amoroso). It is one of the most sincerely felt portrayals of romantic love in the entire Czech piano literature.

JOSEF SUK (1874–1935) – was not only Dvorak's composition student, but also his son-in-law. Unfortunately, his wife Otylka succumbed to her weak heart in 1904 leaving the composer with an infant son and a broken spirit. After that tragic year (which also witnessed Dvorak's death), Suk's creative output slowed down, and his music became preoccupied primarily with memories and/or death. As examples, three of his magnificent works come immediately to mind - the large piano cycle *Things Lived and Dreamt,* his great symphony, *Asrael,* and another piano cycle, *About Mother*, in which Suk musically talks to his child about the mother he had never known.

During the time of his love for Otilka and in the early years of their short married life, the lyrical quality of Suk's art became most prominent. The best known piece from these happier times is the Op. 7. The last part, know as the Love Song, is one of the most beloved pieces in all Czech music. Under the influence of his love for Otilka, his works became autobiographical confessions.

One of the leading Czech pianists at the present time, **Boris Krajny** was born in Kromeriz, Moravia. Even before graduating from the Vejvanovsky Conservatory of Music in his native town, Professor Frantisek Maxian has chosen him as his youngest student. At age fifteen he debuted with the Martinu Philharmonic under Edvard Fisher in Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 4* to great acclaim from music lovers and critics. He graduated from the Academy of Music Arts in Prague in 1969.

His career developed initially in Czechoslovakia and he played with major Czech and Slovak conductors. After winning a special prize at the Queen Elizabeth Piano Competition in Brussels, he started to travel abroad as a piano soloist with the Prague Chamber Orchestra, the Czech Philharmonic and the Brno State Orchestra. He made numerous trips to North America and gave his first performance in Toronto in 1976. His Carnegie Hall debut in 1979 had music critics raving about his Ravel Piano Concerto, which he later recorded with the Prague Symphony Orchestra under Jiri Belohlavek. Krajny performed with the Toronto symphony several times, the Edmonton Symphony, the Milwaukee and New Jersey Orchestras, the Japan Philharmonic and the Malaysia Philharmonic. Most recently he performed the Dvorak Piano Concerto with the Istanbul Symphony in Turkey. He has given recitals in Germany, Slovakia and in the Czech Republic. He is a profesor at his Alma Mater in Prague, and a year ago he returned from South Korea, where he taught piano at the State University at Daegu. He has recorded numerous composers, including the complete works of Ravel, Chopin, Beethoven, Janacek, Vorisek, Bach-Busoni, Schulhoff and Martinu. His recording of French piano concertos by Honegger, Roussel and Poulenc with the Prague Chamber Orchestra, won the Grand Prix du Disc of the Charles Cross Academy of Music in Paris in 1976. His most recent recordings are the Dvorak Piano Quintet with the Kocian quartet, Franck's Quintet with the Stamic Quartet, solo recording of his recitals (Debussy, Ravel, Chopin, Martinu), and the Bach-Busoni transcription of the Chaconne (from his violin sonata.) Recent tours have included recitals in Kitchener, Hamilton, Calgary, Edmonton and Prague in December with a major recital in the Dvorak Hall of Rudolfinum in in the World Class Pianist Series. Boris Krajny resides in Prague, where he teaches performance piano at the Faculty of Music of Academy of Fine Arts.

Upcoming Events

October
28 Friday, 3:00 pm-5:00 pm
Piano Masterclass
"Pedaling Technique"
Visiting Artist **Helmut Brauss**
Studio 27, Fine Arts Building
Free admission

28 Friday, 8:00 pm
Music at Convocation Hall I
Scott St John, violin
Marina Hoover, cello
Patricia Tao, piano
Celebration of Shostakovich's 100th birthday
Trio, No 1, Op 8; Trio, No 2, Op 67:
Dmitri Shostakovich
Trio in A Minor, Op 50:
Peter IlyitchTchaikovsky
Admission: $15/student/senior, $20/adult

31 Monday, 12:00 pm
Noon Hour Organ Recital
A variety of organ repertoire played by students, faculty and guests of the University of Alberta Department of Music
Free admission

November
5 Saturday, 8:00 pm
The University of Alberta Symphonic Wind Ensemble
William Street, Director
Rocky Point Holiday: Nelson
Trauermusik: Wagner
Sinfonietta: Dahl
Dance Suite: Horowitz
Toccata and Fugue in D Minor: JS Bach
Scenes from *the Louvre*: Dello Joio
Marche Hongroise: Berloiz
Twelve Seconds to the Moon: Smith
Admission: $10/student/senior, $15/adult

7 Monday, 12:00 pm
Music at Noon, **Convocation Hall Student Recital Series**
Featuring students from the Department of Music
Free admission

13 Sunday, 3:00 pm
Music at Convocation Hall II
Nora Bumanis, harp
Julia Shaw, harp
Laura Neeland, harp
Elise Neeland, harp
La Joyeuse: Jean-Phillipe Rameau
Spanish Dance No. 2 , Spanish Dance No. 5: Enrique Granados
Waltzes and Promenades: John Marson
Andante from Sagittarius: Malcolm Forsyth
Polka: Jaques Press
Variationen Zur Gesundung Von Arinuschka: Arvo Part
Chansons Dans La Nuit: Carlos Salzedo
Gaol's Ruadh Ros: Allan Gilliland
Serenade: Jeff McCune
Kora Dances: Malcolm Forsyth
Silence Wakes My Song: John Estacio
Passacaglia (from *Suite in G Minor*): GF Handel
Admission: $15/student/senior, $20/adult

14 Monday, 12:00 pm
Noon Hour Organ Recital
A variety of organ repertoire played by students, faculty and guests of the University of Alberta Department of Music
Free admission

14 Monday, 8:00 pm
Faculty Recital
Milton Schlosser, piano
Admission: $15/student/senior, $20/adult

department of Music

Please donate to Campus Food Bank

Unless otherwise indicated
Convocation Hall, Arts Building, University of Alberta
Please note: All concerts and events are subject to change without notice. Please call 492-0601 to confirm concerts (after office hours a recorded message will inform you of any changes to our schedule).